

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 OMB-01 /083 W

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R JQYPOWPZ MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3917

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: CONTINUED DIET IMPASSE

REF: TOKYO 5900

SUMMARY: SOME INDICATION OF INTENT OF PRIMIN TANAKA  
NOT TO SUBMIT CONTROVERSIAL ELECTORAL REVISION PROPOSALS  
APPEARS TO BE KEY TO SOLUTION OF PRESENT DIET DEAD-  
LOCK. FOCUS OF POLITICAL PRIORITIES SHIFTS TO LDP  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES TO WORK OUT A  
COMPROMISE TO EXTEND CURRENT DIET SESSION BEFORE  
EXPIRATION DATE MAY 20. LDP EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED  
YESTERDAY NOT TO SUBMIT TO DIET PUBLIC OFFICE ELECTION LAW  
REVISION WITHOUT MAP SHOWING REVISED SMALL ELECTORAL  
DISTRICTS, BUT AGREEMENT TO EXTEND DIET SESSION  
APPARENTLY BEING WITHHELD BY OPPOSITION PARTIES  
PENDING SOME FORM OF ASSURANCE THAT PRIMIN  
WILL NOT SUBMIT ELECTORAL REVISION BILL THIS  
SESSION. OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEANWHILE, CONTINUED  
TO BOYCOTT DIET PROCEEDINGS MAY 16, END SUMMARY

1. DECISION BY LDP EXECUTIVE BOARD WHICH MET MAY 15  
CONFIRMED THE OBVIOUS, E. E., THAT PARTY NOT UNIFIED  
IN SUPPORT OF PRIMIN TANAKA PLAN TO SUBMIT CONTRO-  
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VERSIAL PUBLIC OFFICE ELECTION LAW REVISION BILL TO DIET BEFORE EXPIRATION OF CURRENT SESSION MAY 20, PARTICULARLY SINCE ESSENTIAL RELATED BILL DEFINING NEW SMALL DISTRICTS NOT READY. BOARD THUS CONFIRMED MORE URGENT PRIORITY TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE EXTENSION OF DIET SESSION BY WEEKEND. IN EXPLAINING DECISION TO PRESS AFTER MEETING, LDP EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN ZENKO SUZUKI SAID THAT ELECTORAL PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED LATER, AS PACKAGE, BUT ALSO GAVE VERBAL ASSURANCES THAT LDP HAS NO INTENTION OF SUBMITTING BILL TO DIET DURING EXTENSION OF CURRENT SESSION.

2. WITH WAY THUS OSTENSIBLY CLEARED TO WORK OUT DIET EXTENSION, LDP SECRETARY GENERAL TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO CALLED ON LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER UMEKICHI NAKAMURA AFTERNOON SAME DAY, AND UPPER HOUSE PRESIDENT KENZO KONO LATER, TO REQUEST QTE LENGTHY EXTENSION UNQTE OF DIET SESSION TO PERMIT DELIBERATION OF PENDING BILLS, SAID TO NUMBER MORE THAN 100.

3. LDP FORMALLY PRESENTED REQUEST FOR 100- DAY EXTENSION TO DIRECTORS OF LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE SAME EVENING, WHICH DURATION UNPRECEDENTED

IN HISTORY OF DIET.

4. DESPITE LATEST LDP EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION, HOWEVER, OPPOSITION PARTIES NOT EXPECTED TO AGREE EASILY TO DIET EXTENSION IN LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE, EXCEPT ON CONDITION THAT PRIMIN TANAKA INDICATE INTENT NOT TO SUBMIT ELECTORAL REVISION BILL WITH SPECULATION CENTERING ON POSSIBILITY THAT EITHER SPEAKER NAKAMURA OR CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO MAY DO SO ON HIS BEHALF. MEANTIME, THEIR BOYCOTT OF DIET PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT MAY 16.

5. PRIMIN TANAKA HAS NOT SPOKEN ON SUBJECT SINCE TELLING CABINET PRESS CLUB INFORMALLY MAY 14 THAT HE PLANNED TO SUBMIT PUBLIC OFFICE ELECTION LAW REVISION BILL AND RELATED BILLS DURING CURRENT SESSION BUT WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECKLESSLY FORCE PASSAGE BY DIET. THIS WAS INTERPRETED AS MODERATION OF SURPRISINGLY STRONG ATTITUDE HE EXPRESSED LATE LAST WEEK. HE ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT HE REGRETTED THAT OMISSION OF REFERENCE TO

ELECTORAL REFORM FROM HIS POLICY STATEMENT AT OPENING OF SESSION HAD CONFUSED LDP AS WELL AS OPPOSI-

TION PARTIES, BUT DID NOT FEEL THAT IT NECESSARY  
IN VIEW OF CLAR STATEMENT OF INTENT HE MADE DURING  
PRECEDING EXTRAORDINARY SESSION.

6. COMMENT: PRIMIN TANAKA INSISTENCE THAT ELECTORAL  
REFORM ESSENTIAL NOW WITHOUT ASSURANCE OF FULL PARTY SUPPORT  
HAS LED HIM DARINGLY CLOSE TO UNTENABLE  
POSITION FROM WHICH HE CAN RETREAT ONLY AT FURTHER  
LOSS OF SUBSTANCE OF LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS DARKER  
TARNISH ON IMAGE OF DECISION AND ACTION.  
INGERSOLL

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NMAFVVZCZ

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